Chilly production

4290. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO :
DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD.

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) what is the share of Andhra Pradesh in the country's total production of chillies;

(b) which other States grow chillies in a big way ;

(c) what incentives are being given to the chilly-growers by Government;

(d) whether minimum support price for chillies is fixed;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and whether Andhra Pradesh Government has urged the Union Government for approval of market intervention scheme for purchase of 15,000 MTs of red chillies; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK) : (a) The share of Andhra Pradesh is about 50% in the total production of chillies in the country.

(b) Karnataka, Orissa, Maharashtra, West Bengal and Rajasthan, are other major chillies growing States.

(c) Assistance is available to the chilli growers for production of nucleus seed; establishment of demonstration-cum-seed multiplication plots; demonstration of plant protection measures; distribution of minikits; area expansion, under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Integrated Programme for Development of Spices". With effect from the year 2000-01, this scheme has been amalgamated under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Macro management in Agriculture—Supplementation/Complementation of States' Efforts through Works Plans for adoption of regionally differentiated strategies.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) and (f) Chilli is not covered under the Minimum Support Price Scheme. However, to protect the interest of chilli farmers, it is covered under Market Intervention Scheme. Government of India fixed market intervention price of Rs. 2400/- per quintal under the Market Intervention Scheme and approved a

quantity of 15,000 MTs of red chillies for procurement by National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED) during the period 20th March to 15th June, 2001.

Production and marketing of green vegetables, fruits and flowers

†4291. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of plans for production and marketing of green vegetables, fruits and flowers in the country;

(b) whether there is any plan for construction of cold storage for preserving green vegetables, fruits and flowers in all the district headquarters of Bihar;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to provide money to Tirhut Agriculture College, District Muzaffarpur, for this purpose; and

(d) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK) : (a) The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation has been implementing schemes for the development of fruits, vegetables and flowers in the country till October, 2000. Since then the schemes have been subsumed in the scheme for macro management mode which provides flexibility to the States to pursue these programmes as per their needs. Besides, National Horticulture Board (NHB) is implementing a scheme "Development of Commercial Holrticulture through post harvest management". The scheme envisages production of high quality commercial crops including fruits, vegetables and flowers, strengthening of post harvest management and marketing. Under the scheme back ended capital investment subsidy @ not exceeding 20% of the total project cost with a maximum limit of Rs. 25 lakhs per project is provided to those projects which are found technically and financial viable.

(b) The National Horticulture Board is also implementing a scheme "Capital Investment Subsidy Scheme" for construction/expansion/modernization of cold storages and storages for horticulture produce. The scheme is demand based and applicable only in those States/UTs/areas, which do not control rentals for cold storages under any statutory or administrative order. The scheme is applicable in six proposals in the State of Bihar after August, 2000.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.